

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CAPTAIN DAVID
LEMIRE AS THE 2016 MARQUETTE
POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Captain David Lemire as the 2016 Marquette Police Officer of the Year. The Marquette Police Officer of the Year Award is presented annually to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has excelled in the line of duty by demonstrating a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement.

Captain Lemire was born and raised in Marquette, where, after serving for a decade in the U.S. Army, he returned to give back to his community. For 25 years, David served the citizens of Marquette with distinction, honesty, and a willingness to take responsibility. Honor is David's defining characteristic, and he undertakes every endeavor with discipline and dedication. As a decorated officer, he has received numerous awards that speak to his character, including: A Life Saving Citation for the rescue of two persons on a capsized boat on Lake Independence, the Michigan State Police Award for Professional Excellence, an award for Exemplary Performance and Professionalism from the Michigan Army National Guard for his assistance after a helicopter crash, and the Outstanding Instructor Award at the Northern Michigan University Regional Police Academy in both 2002 and 2010.

These awards only begin to describe David's commitment to his community. For every recognized deed, there are hundreds of small achievements that are never acknowledged in the public eye. There is no doubt that Captain Lemire's countless achievements are a contributing factor to Marquette being named one of the safest cities in the United States. Moreover, it's clear that he has positively impacted the citizens of Marquette County. David has received myriad letters of appreciation from citizens thanking him for his comfort and kind words after the death of a family member or at the scene of a tragic accident. His commitment to justice and public service has gone beyond the call of duty. Captain David Lemire has consistently set an example of what a police officer should strive to achieve in their career.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Lemire's long list of accomplishments cannot be understated, and I am confident that he will continue to serve as a role model for the next generation of great community leaders in Michigan's First District. His wife, Cindy, and son, Mitchell, can take pride in knowing the Upper Peninsula is a better place thanks to David's work. On behalf of my constituents and the First District of Michigan, I wish to congratulate Captain David Lemire on being named the 2016 Marquette Police Officer of the Year.

HONORING THE NEWTOWN BEE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Newtown Bee, a weekly paper based in Newtown, Connecticut, upon the 140th Anniversary of its first publication. For well over a century, The Newtown Bee has chronicled the town's history and informed the Newtown community.

The Newtown Bee was first published on June 28, 1877, and was initially led by editor John Pearce. Brothers Reuben and Allison Smith purchased the paper in 1881, and their leadership brought the paper increased prominence. Successive generations of the Smith family have been committed to The Newtown Bee's success and have ensured the paper's weekly publication, totaling over 7,000 issues. Despite changes in journalism, The Newtown Bee has remained a relevant part of the Newtown community, while keeping its historic charm. It is still published as a traditional eight column broadsheet newspaper, but it also pioneered Connecticut's first online newspaper in 1995.

The Newtown community has looked to The Newtown Bee paper for information on town government activities, the work of public officials and business leaders, and even profiles of their neighbors. Since 1903, The Newtown Bee has been run from the same historic building on Church Hill Road, which is topped with an iconic bee weathervane. Moreover, members of the Smith family have been active members of our community, supporting local sports teams, the arts, and community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, The Newtown Bee has been a vital and successful institution in Newtown, Connecticut for 140 years, and the leadership of the Smith family has ensured the community is informed and engaged in civic life. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the paper and the many leaders who have ensured its success here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, due to a request by the Governor of Washington to lead the largest-ever state delegation to the International Paris Air Show, I was unable to participate in floor proceedings for the week of June 19–23, 2017.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 309; YEA on Roll Call No. 310; NAY on Roll Call No. 311; NAY on Roll Call No. 312; NAY on Roll Call No. 313;

YEA on Roll Call No. 314; NAY on Roll Call No. 315; NAY on Roll Call No. 316; NAY on Roll Call No. 317; YEA on Roll Call No. 318; NAY on Roll Call No. 319; YEA on Roll Call No. 320; NAY on Roll Call No. 321; YEA on Roll Call No. 322.

THE UNITED STATES MUST NOT
ABANDON THE PEOPLE OF TIBET

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the people of Tibet are living under China's repressive rule and their culture, religion, and way of life is at risk of being extinguished. The human rights abuses and constant repression on Tibetans perpetrated by China are intolerable and must be resisted by the United States and this Congress. Religious freedom and the preservation of Tibetan cultural and linguistic traditions are essential to a new generation of Tibetans, both inside Tibet and in exile communities in India, Nepal, and the United States (including our vibrant community in Minnesota).

Past U.S. administrations have supported human rights, democracy, and education programs for the people of Tibet. Whether it is Tibetan language broadcasts as a source of independent information, the Tibetan Scholarship Program, or the Ngawang Choephel Fellows Program, these modest U.S. investments have had a strong and positive impact on creating a pathway for Tibetan leaders and voices of freedom. USAID has made important investment in support of Tibetans inside Tibet and living as refugees.

It is unacceptable that the Trump administration's fiscal year 2018 budget eliminates funding for many of the important programs supporting the people of Tibet. It is up to Congress to ensure necessary funds are appropriated to sustain the Tibetan programs for the coming fiscal year. Eliminating these funds, as proposed, is an abandonment of the Tibetan people and will give China a green light to accelerate their cruel repression and destruction of Tibetan lives and culture.

There is one additional issue that is of utmost urgency, the appointment of a new Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the Department of State. This position, authorized in the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, is intended to guide U.S. policy toward Tibet and communicate directly with the Chinese government. I would urge Secretary Tillerson and the White House to fill this position immediately.

Last weekend, Minnesota had the honor of hosting His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. I had the privilege of attending a public event with His Holiness and giving remarks before Minnesota's large and strong community of Tibetan refugees. The remarks below were delivered at that event and I ask that they be included in the RECORD:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.